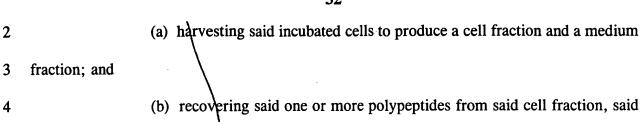
## **Claims:**

isolated nucleic acid comprising the sequence depicted in Figure 1 1 2. A nucleic acid as defined in claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid is DNA. 1 A nucleic acid as defined in claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid is RNA. 3. A recombinant DNA vector comprising a sequence as defined in claim 1 1. 2 5. A recombinant DNA vector comprising a sequence as defined in claim 1 1 operably linked to a transcription regulatory element. 2 6. A cell comprising a DNA vector as defined in claim 5, wherein said cell 1 2 is selected from the group consisting of bacterial, fungal, plant, insect, and mammalian cells. 1 7. A method for producing a polypeptide, said method comprising incubating a cell as defined in claim 6 under conditions that permit expression of one or more 2 3 polypeptides encoded by said nucleic acid. 1 8. A method as defined in claim 7, further comprising:





medium fraction, or both.

10. A nucleic acid as defined in claim 9, wherein said nucleic acid is DNA.

11. A nucleic acid as defined in claim 9, wherein said nucleic acid is RNA.

A purified isolated nucleic acid encoding the amino acid sequence depicted

12. A recombinant DNA vector comprising a sequence as defined in claim 9.

13. A recombinant DNA vector comprising a sequence as defined in claim 9 operably linked to a transcription regulatory element.

1 14. A cell comprising a DNA vector as defined in claim 13, wherein said cell

is selected from the group consisting of bacterial, fungal, plant, insect, and mammalian cells. 2

5

1

1

1

1

2





1	15. A method for producing a polypeptide, said method comprising incubating
2	a cell as defined in claim 14 under conditions that permit expression of one or more
3	polypeptides encoded by said nucleic acid.
1	16. A method as defined in claim 15, further comprising:
2	(a) harvesting said incubated cells to produce a cell fraction and a medium
3	fraction; and
4	(b) recovering said one or more polypeptides from said cell fraction, said
5	medium fraction, or both.
6	17. A purified polypeptide comprising a sequence selected from the group
7	consisting of the sequence depicted in Figure 1 SEQ ID NO:2 and function-conservative
8	variants thereof.
9	18. A purified polypeptide comprising amino acids 1-45 of the sequence depicted
10	in Figure 1 SEQ ID NO:2.
1	19. A method for identifying hERβ-interactive compounds, said method
2	comprising:
3	(a) contacting purified hERB with a labelled ligand in the presence of test
4	compounds, to form test reactions, and in the absence of test compounds, to form control
5	reactions:

(b) incubating said test and control reactions under appropriate conditions 6 to achieve equilibrium binding of said labelled ligand to  $hER\beta$ ; 7 (c) determining the level of binding of said labelled ligand to hERB' in said 8 test and control cultures; and 9 (d) identifying as a hER $\beta$ -interactive compound any compound that reduces 10 the binding of said labelled ligand to hER $\beta$ . 11 20. A method as defined in claim 19, wherein said ligand is  $17-\beta$  estradiol. 1 defined in claim 19, wherein said hER $\beta$ -interactive A method as 1 2 compound is an agonist. A method as defined in claim 19, wherein said hER $\beta$ -interactive 1 22. 2 compound is an antagonist. 23. An antibody that specifically recognizes hER $\beta$ . 3